

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 SSM-03  
/079 W

-----096039 271347Z /50

O R 271255Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USIA WASHDC  
NSC  
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12528

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG, US, IS, XF  
SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF BEGIN VISIT AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

REF: CAIRO 12448 (NOTAL)

1. MEDIA COVERAGE OF AFTERMATH OF BEGIN VISIT HAS BECOME MORE  
EXTENSIVE IN THE PAST TWO DAYS (REFTEL). GOE HAS CONTINUED  
REFRAIN FROM OFFICIAL COMMENT ON US/ISRAEL DIPLOMACY,  
BUT WILL BE HARD PUT TO REMAIN SILENT ON ISRAELI  
RECOGNITION OF NEW SETTLEMENTS.

2. SETTLEMENTS. PRESS PLAYS STRAIGHT LATE BREAKING NEWS  
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FROM AFP WASHINGTON THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS  
EXPRESSED USG'S "DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER BEGIN OFFICIAL  
RECOGNITION OF QADDUM AND OTHER SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK.  
NOTED SETTLEMENTS DESCRIBED BY US ARE "OBSTACLES TO PEACE",  
VIEW WHICH WAS CONVEYED TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. REPORT  
SAYS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY.

3. VANCE TOUR. JULY 27 PRESS REPORTED FACTUALLY ON SECRETARY'S TOUR OF MIDDLE EAST. AHAM EXPECTS SECRETARY TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 29. AHAM "LEARNED" IN WASHINGTON THAT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN ALEXANDRIA AUGUST 1 AND 2. SECRETARY WILL BE BEARING PROPOSALS ON CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND BRIEF SADAT ON TALKS WITH BEGIN.

4. CONTROVERSY IN ISRAEL. AHAM ALSO REPORTS BRIEFLY ON POLITICAL TENSIONS WITHIN ISRAEL CAUSED BY LABOR PARTY ATTACKS ON BEGIN'S MIDDLE EAST POSITIONS. ISRAELI PRESS SAID TO BELIEVE THAT BEGIN VISIT LEFT MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS UNSOLVED AND MERELY POSTPONED US/ISRAELI CONFRONTATION.

5. COMMENT: LOCAL CONCERN AND MOUNTING PRIVATE EGYPTIAN PESSIMISM ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DEEPENED BY BEGIN'S DECISION TO RECOGNIZE SETTLEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON HEELS OF BEGIN'S VISIT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW US ARMS AGREEMENT. GUSH EUNIM HAS BECOME WEST BANK SYMBOL, BUT THREE ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN RAFA JUNCTION AREA (WHEN THIS BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE) ARE OF MORE IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT CONCERN TO EGYPTIANS. LATEST USG STATEMENT CRITICIZING SETTLEMENTS IS APPRECIATED, BUT OF ITSELF WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO PERSUADE GOE THAT USG IS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ARGUED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT OUR STATEMENTS REPRESENT "POSTURING" RATHER THAN FIRM POLICY IN ABSENCE ANY BACKUP ACTIVITIES ON OUR PART TO DISSUADE ISRAELIS FROM PURSUING SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES. BEGIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS WASHINGTON VISIT WILL BE VIEWED AS CHALLENGE TO USG. IN THEIR VIEW, OUR STATEMENT WILL NOT BE VIEWED AS SUFFICIENT RESPONSE, ALL THE MORE SO IN LIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT NEW US ARMS ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL. WHAT EGYPTIANS WOULD REALLY LIKE IS THAT WE FIND SOME WAY OF GIVING SUBSTANCE TO OUR EXPRESSION OF DISAPPROVAL OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY THROUGH SOME TANGIBLE ACTIONS RATHER THAN DISAPPROVING WORDS. THIS IS CLEARLY DIFFICULT FOR US, BUT SO LONG AS ISRAELIS CONTINUE SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN DISREGARD OF OUR PUBLICLY EXPRESSED VIEWS, THEY ARE WAVING RED FLAG BEFORE EGYPTIAN BULL AND IN EGYPTIAN EYES AT LEAST, HURTING OUR CREDIBILITY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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